

Occupational Therapist Assistants

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS (OTAs) support occupational therapists by providing assistance during client examinations, treatment administration, and monitoring. They maintain client health records and related information, and also perform a wide range of practice-related duties.

Occupational Therapist Assistants help clients with rehabilitative activities as outlined in a treatment plan. The work includes activities such as teaching an ailing elderly person the proper method of moving from a bed into a wheelchair or teaching a client with arthritis how to perform daily living activities more effectively. Occupational Therapist Assistants monitor a client's treatment activities to make sure they are performed correctly and provide encouragement to clients. They also record their client's progress and track time for billing purposes.

Requirements

- ▲ Completion of an associate's degree or certificate from a college or technical school accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education.
- ▲ Pass examination offered by the National Board of Occupational Therapists.
- ▲ Certification by the California Board of Occupational Therapy.
- ▲ Ability to effectively communicate with others verbally and in writing and to follow instructions.
- ▲ Ability to listen to or observe the reactions of others and respond appropriately.
- ▲ Fingerprint clearance is required.

Wages

- | | |
|--|----------|
| ▲ Occupational Therapist Assistants
Median hourly wage: | \$24.01 |
| ▲ Average annual wage: | \$49,533 |

Source: Occupational Employment Survey of Employers 2006 by EDD/LMID.

Occupational Therapist Assistants

Job Outlook

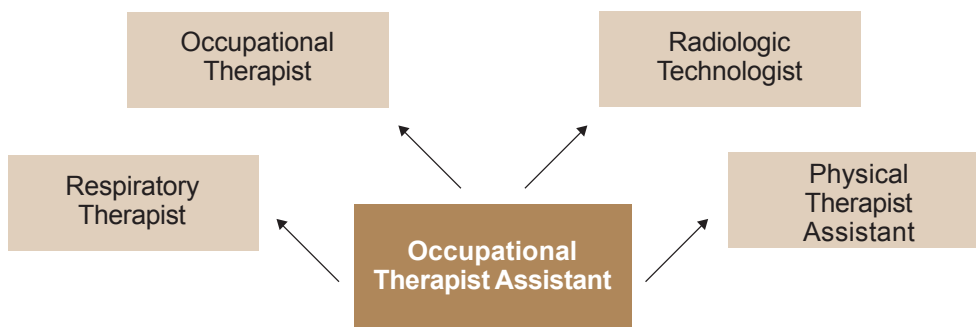
- ▲ Estimated number of Occupational Therapist Assistants in 2004: 1,200
- ▲ Estimated number of Occupational Therapist Assistants in 2014: 1,600
- ▲ Estimated annual job openings: 60

Source: Occupational Projections, EDD/LMID.

Sources of Information

- ▲ California Board of Occupational Therapy
(916) 322-3394
www.bot.ca.gov
- ▲ National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc.
(301) 990-7979
www.nbcot.org
- ▲ *California Occupational Guide*, No. 566,
Occupational Therapy Assistants/Occupational Therapy Aides

Possible Career Paths



The skills, knowledge, and abilities acquired for the primary occupation provide a solid foundation for further growth in health career occupations. Additional education or training is often required.